

Message Text

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41

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OIC-02 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

SS-15 SP-02 L-03 H-02 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 INT-05 /106 W

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R 181348Z MAY 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7548

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2146

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, PN, PQ, RQ, KS,KN

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: GOVERNOR SCRANTON MEETS SRI
LANKA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE AMERASINGHE

REF: STATE 109822

1. SUMMARY: SRI LANKA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE AMERASINGHE

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HAS ASSURED GOVERNOR SCRANTON THAT HE WILL SEEK MODERATION ON

PUERTO RICO, THE PANAMA CANAL, AND KOREA AT NONALIGNED SUMMIT
THIS AUGUST IN COLOMBO. END SUMMARY

2. GOVERNOR SCRANTON AT HIS OWN REQUEST MET SRI LANKA'S AMBASSADOR AMERASINGHE AT UN ON MAY 13. SCRANTON STRESSED TO AMERASINGHE OUR DESIRE TO AVOID CONFRONTATION ON PUERTO RICO, THE PANAMA CANAL, AND KOREA. MAKING POINTS OUTLINED IN REFTEL, SCRANTON SOUGHT AMERASINGHE'S HELP IN DAMPENING PROSPECTS FOR CONFRONTATION.

3. AMERASINGHE'S RESPONSE WAS CANDID AND FRIENDLY. HE STRESSED HIS INTENTION TO AVOID CONFRONTATION AT NONALIGNED SUMMIT IN COLOMBO ON PUERTO RICO, THE PANAMA CANAL, AND KOREA. AMERASINGHE COMMENTED THAT STRONGLY WORDED RESOLUTIONS USUALLY DAMAGE THE CAUSE THEY SEEK TO SERVE. HE ADDED THAT MANY OF NONALIGNED DO NOT WANT NONALIGNED MOVEMENT TO BECOME EXTREMIST. HE SINGLED OUT ALGERIA AND CUBA AS BELLICOSE EXTREMISTS WHO ARE SEPARATING THEMSELVES FROM THE BULK OF NONALIGNED BY THEIR POSITIONS.

4. AMERASINGHE SAID THAT PUERTO RICO IS AN INTERNAL U.S. MATTER. NEITHER SRI LANKA NOR MANY OF THE OTHER NONALIGNED COUNTRIES WANT PUERTO RICO A SUBJECT OF DEBATE AT COLOMBO OR IN UNGA. HE FEARED THOUGH THAT IT WOULD ARISE IN COLOMBO, GIVEN CUBAN AND ALGERIAN POSITIONS. AMERASINGHE CONTINUED THAT PUERTO RICO ILLUSTRATES THE CRITICAL POINT NONALIGNED MOVEMENT HAS REACHED IF THE MOVEMENT IS TO RETAIN ITS INTEGRITY AS A NON-EXTREMIST BODY. HE EMPHASIZED HIS INTENTION TO BLUNT OR DEFEAT ANY EFFORTS TO RAISE PUERTO RICO AS AN ISSUE.

5. AMERASINGHE AGREED THAT COMMENDABLE PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE BY U.S. AND PANAMA IN THEIR CANAL NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAW NO VALUE IN EXTREMIST STATEMENTS BY NONALIGNED WHICH WOULD INFLAME POLITICAL PASSIONS IN U.S. AND PANAMA. NOTHING SHOULD INHIBIT U.S. - PANAMA NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY. AMERASINGHE DID NOT SENSE MUCH SENTIMENT WITHIN NONALIGNED TO AGGRAVATE CANAL TREATY SITUATION. HE INVITED SCRANTON TO PROVIDE REPORTS ON THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WOULD HELP KEEP THE CANAL ISSUE QUIET.

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6. AMERASINGHE WAS DIRECT AND FORTHRIGHT ON KOREA. IN BITING WORDS, HE CHARACTERIZED THE NORTH KOREANS AS A "PAIN IN THE BACKSIDE" AT THE UN, EVEN TO THE ALGERIANS AND CUBANS. HE DESCRIBED NORTH KOREANS AS "CLUMSY AND IRRITATING." HE FELT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE SENTIMENT NOT TO LET NORTH KOREA AND ITS BACKERS GET AWAY WITH EXTREMIST RESOLUTIONS AT COLOMBO OR IN FORTHCOMING UNGA. AMERASINGHE SAID HE WAS DETERMINED TO PREVENT EXTREMISTS FROM RUNNING THE SHOW. "THEY WILL NOT GET

AWAY WITH WHAT THEY WANT," HE PREDICTED. AMERASINGHE FELT
IT WOULD BE NECESSARY EVENTUALLY TO GET UN COMMAND OUT OF KOREA.
HE ACKNOWLEDGED THE OBSTACLES, AND FOR THE MOMENT SAW NO REAL
SOLUTION TO KOREA PROBLEM.
SCRANTON

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